

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for generating business activity-related model-based output
2 from a computer system, the method comprising:

3 providing a computer system with a computer, a user interface, a database, an
4 authoring editor module, an interview manager module, a rules generator module, a data
5 manager module and at least one output generator module;

6 creating, and storing in the database, a set of model questions related to a
7 business activity using the authoring editor module;

8 presenting, using the interview manager module, an interactive interview to a
9 user via the user interface, and storing answers to the interactive interview provided by the
10 user and answer data dynamically imported using the data manager module, wherein the
11 interactive interview includes a series of context-sensitive questions dynamically generated
12 from the set of model questions by the interview manager module during the presentation of
13 the interactive interview;

14 converting, using the rules generator module, the stored answers to the
15 interactive interview into a set of rules that model the business activity and storing the set of
16 rules in the database; and

17 generating a business activity-related model-based output from the computer
18 system based on the stored set of rules.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the providing step,
2 providing a server computer and a relational database.
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1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the presenting step,
2 presenting an interactive web-based interview.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the creating step,
2 creating a set of model questions via a graphical user interface (GUI) managed by the
3 authoring editor module.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the generating step,
2 generating the business activity-related model-based output as an XML-based output.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the providing step,
2 providing a computer system that additionally includes a format module configured to format

3 a business activity-related model-based output and wherein the generating step generates a
4 formatted and model-based business activity-related output.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the creating step,
2 creating controls that determine a flow of context-sensitive questions during the interactive
3 interview and storing the controls in the database.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the creating step,
2 creating predefined rules related to the business activity and, during the converting step,
3 converting the stored answers and the predefined rules into a set of rules that model the
4 business activity.

5 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the presenting step,
6 presenting an interactive interview to a plurality of users in a collaborative manner and
7 storing answers collaboratively provided by the plurality of users.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising during the presenting step,
2 presenting an interactive interview wherein the interactive interview includes a series of
3 context-sensitive questions dynamically generated from the set of model questions and the
4 answer data by the interview manager module during the presentation of the interactive
5 interview.

1 11. A computer system for generating business activity-related model-
2 based output, the computer system comprising:

3 a computer; and

4 a database,

5 wherein the computer includes:

6 a user interface;

7 an authoring editor module configured for creating, and storing
8 in the database, a set of model questions related to a business activity;

9 an interview manager module configured for presenting an
10 interactive interview to a user via the user interface, and storing answers to the interview
11 provided by the user, wherein the interactive interview includes a series of context-sensitive

12 questions dynamically generated from the set of model questions by the interview manager
13 module during the presentation of the interactive interview;
14 a data manager module configured to dynamically import
15 answer data during the presentation of the interactive interview;
16 a rules generator module configured for converting, using the
17 rules generator module, the stored answers to the interactive interview into a set of rules that
18 model the business activity and storing the set of rules in the database; and
19 at least one output generator module configured for generating
20 a business activity-related model-based output from the computer system based on the stored
21 set of rules.

1 12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the authoring editor
2 module, interview manager module, data manager module, rules generator module and output
3 generator module include software programs resident on the computer.

1 13. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer is a server
2 computer, the user interface is configured for linking, via the Internet, a user's Internet-
3 enabled device to the computer system, and the interface module is configured for presenting
4 the interactive interview to the user via the user's Internet-enabled device.

1 14. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the interview manager
2 module is configured to present an interactive web-based interview.

1 15. The computer system of claim 11, wherein there are a plurality of
2 output generator modules with each of the output generator modules configured to generating
3 a different business activity-related model-based output.

1 16. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the interview manager
2 module is configured to present a plurality of users with an interactive interview in a manner
3 which provides for storing answers collaboratively provided by the plurality of users.

4 17. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the data manager module is
5 also configured to export answer data and answers provided by a user during the interactive
6 interview.